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On December 10, 2002

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:

Sylvia E. Arnold



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 019941-000510US
Client Ref. No.: Y0108-US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Toyohiro Sawada *et al.*

Application No.: 09/834,410

Filed: April 12, 2001

For: TIMED-RELEASE
COMPRESSION-COATED SOLID
COMPOSITION FOR ORAL
ADMINISTRATION

Examiner: Micah Paul Young

Art Unit: 1615

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 11, 2002. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the above-referenced patent application in view of the remarks presented herein.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the above-referenced patent application and are currently under examination. A copy of the claims as pending are set forth in the Appendix for the Examiner's convenience. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over EP 0661045 ("Nakashima *et al.*") in view of EP 0709386 ("Taniguchi